

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SSC-01 CPR-02 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 240908Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6155

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP, MY

SUBJECT: NEW SULTAN OF SULU CROWNED: TO PLEDGE LOYALTY TO GOP

1. MANILA PRESS REPORTS THAT DATU MOHAMAD MAHAKUTTAH KIRAM WILL BE CROWNED IN JOLO ON MAY 24 AS 34TH SULTAN OF SULU. KIRAM AND OTHER SULU NOBILITY ARE SCHEDULED TO CALL ON PRESIDENT MARCOS IN MANILA MAY 25 TO PLEDGE LOYALTY OF SULU SULTANATE TO PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC, ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS.

2. COMMENT: NEW SULTAN IS GRANDNEPHEW OF SULTAN JAMALUL-KIRAM II, WHO DIED CHILDLESS IN 1936. VARIOUS PRETENDERS HAVE ADVANCED CLAIMS IN INTERVENING YEARS, AND ONE RESIDING IN SABAH HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN RECOGNIZED BY TUN MUSTAPHA. HOWEVER, NEW SULTAN IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS MOST LEGITIMATE HEIR TO SULU SULTANATE. HIS FATHER, RECOGNIZED IN SULU AS 33RD SULTAN, DIED IN JANUARY 1974. ACCORDING SEVERAL SOURCES, ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESENT CORONATION AND VISIT TO MANILA ARE LARGELY IN HANDS OF PHILIPPINE MILITARY, WHO ARE CONCERNED THAT

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REBELS MAY DISRUPT CEREMONIES.

3. POWER OF SULTAN OF SULU DECLINED CONSIDERABLY IN  
EARLY DECADES OF 20TH CENTURY, AND HE HAS LITTLE IMPORTANCE  
IN CONTEMPORARY SULU POLITICS. SIGNIFICANCE OF CROWNING  
OF NEW SULTAN IS RELATED TO GOP CLAIM TO SABAH. IN 1962 GOP  
ASSUMED CLAIM OF HEIRS TO SABAH AS OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT  
POSITION. GOP HAS BEEN FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING HEIRS IN  
RETURN, AND THEY HAVE GIVEN PRESIDENT MARCOS POWER OF  
ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT THEM. NEW SULTAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GO  
ALONG WITH WHATEVER POLICY MARCOS ADVANCES ON SABAH. MARCOS  
APPEARS DESIROUS OF INSURING THAT NEW SULTAN BE CROWNED BEFORE  
HIS DEPARTURE FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO NEXT WEEK.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, RP, MY, (KIRAM, MOHAMAD M)  
**To:** STATE  
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